

VISIT #3, THE THIRD PROMISE OF THE COVENANT OF LOVE

“I WILL DRAW FROM HERE YOUTHFUL HEARTS TO FOLLOW ME”



IN THE SPIRIT OF COVENANT SPIRITUALITY:

(From THE THREE PILLARS pages 59-65):

In this Promise, we find “hidden” the great world of **CHILDLIKENESS** which unfolds into daily life the words of Jesus: “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt. 18:3)

While dwelling among us our covenant partner wishes to care for the youthful hearts. She draws to herself not only the young of age but also the young of heart, regardless of their age. Youth and those who are young of heart are open and willing to change, eager to learn and ready to conquer the world – the world within themselves, the world around them, the world at large. If we open ourselves to Our Lady’s influence, she will fill us with the right **youthful, childlike**, spirit – a daring spirit, a victorious spirit, a trusting spirit. As the Blessed Mother draws youthful hearts to herself, she draws them out of the snares of ungodly powers and attracts them to herself and to God. Drawing them to herself, she accompanies them wherever they go, protecting and sheltering them, warding off all dangers and perils of life.

A great promise indeed! especially when we can entrust our youth unto her at a time when their cry for freedom is so strong, when they want to be free from all childhood bonds. She will draw them into the true kind of freedom and bind them to God, to his divine wish and will which alone will make them free.

(GOD MY FATHER): What is true **CHILDLIKENESS**? Our founder speaks to us:

The Apostles had a tremendous drive for greatness. They wanted to become something great...What did Christ tell his Apostles? Whom did he give them as a model? Did he give them great men from Jewish history? What did Christ do? He took a child and stood him in their midst: “Unless you change...” What does that mean? Unless you change your ambitions, unless you direct your ambitions toward a different goal, you will not enter the kingdom of God; you will not enter my kingdom, and even less become its pillars. Unless you – mature men – at the cost of serious ethical striving acquire the noble qualities which a child possesses by nature, you cannot be my instruments (cf. Mt 18:1-5).

THROUGH THIS ENCOUNTER, with thanksgiving and gratitude, let us pray to be open to our Blessed Mother’s promise to draw youthful hearts to follow her. Let us pray to receive this grace which she is offering to us so that we can grow in **COVENANT SPIRITUALITY** through her motherly education and intercession.

REFLECTION:

Our founder expressed our mission in the light of childlikeness in the following words: “Schoenstatt has thoroughly developed the ‘**Father-child relationship**’ in all directions as a symbol of the covenant of love with God and has made it the basis for the personal and common life” (God My Father – Joseph Kentenich). It was Father Kentenich’s special concern to proclaim the true image of God as revealed by Christ, the image of a God of love, a merciful Father whose children we are, indeed.

What is **HOLINESS**? Holiness means being formed in the **likeness of Christ**. What do we mean by that? We should put on the form of Christ, we should assume the shape of Christ. What is the form of Christ? It is the childlike surrender to the Father. Holiness is not knowledge, but childlike surrender after the example of Christ. This applies to man and woman. Naturally, this childlike surrender should be deep and if it is deep, it will involve our wills and our feelings.

We realize that childlikeness is the greatest holiness possible because childlikeness, as the simplicity of one’s mind, heart and will, necessarily is the perfect gift of wisdom. In this light we understand the words of Holy Scripture, “The Spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, “**Abba Father**” (Rom 8:15). In him our attitude grows toward becoming strongly God-oriented. In receiving the precious gift of childlikeness, we become detached from ourselves, as far as this is possible on earth, and we center more and more on the Father.

COMMIT:

The Blessed Mother wishes to lead us into the great world of childlikeness with this promise of the covenant of love. It is true childlikeness that helps us master daily life. Read more about **CHILDLIKENESS** from THE THREE PILLARS pages 62-65.

PRAY:

God gives the entire riches of his gifts and graces to those who are pliable, small, and humble. Pray the Third Joyful Mystery of the Rosary for the grace to become the Father’s humble child:

The Third Joyful Mystery - The Nativity

Jesus is born in Bethlehem. In the Nativity, **Mary is the humble child** who is so totally united with God that in her miraculous fruitfulness she brings forth the Sun of Righteousness, **the Divine Humble Child of the Father**, thus fulfilling God’s wish with great joy and generosity of heart.

We are called to be holy, called to be saints. A saint is a person who is totally united with God, who places God into the center of his/her life and fulfills God’s slightest wish with great joy and generosity of heart. Father Kentenich says, “Holiness is the simplest thing in the world, it is the child’s love for the Father.” Let us look at God in faith, speak with God in love, and sacrifice for love of God the efforts we make in our daily living to educate ourselves in becoming holy personalities and humble children of the Father. May God grant us the grace **to become His humble children**, to be faithful and fruitful in the Spirit like Jesus, the Son of the Father, and Mary, His Mother. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be).

Dear Blessed Mother, “you have graciously established Schoenstatt so that our times can see the Eternal light. From there you want to go through our dark world as the Christbearer sent by God. Jubilantly place the Lord into my soul anew, so that, like you, I may perfectly resemble Him. Amen.” (Heavenwards)